

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

December 1, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

December 3	Reading Olympics
December 4	Specials Showcase
December 9-10	Outdoor Education
December 19	Ethnic Fest

News

Holiday Donations

Ms. Krikau and Ms. O'Malley are spearheading a collection for needy families in our community. All contributions are very much appreciated. Students who donate will receive a small prize.

Outdoor Education Field Trip

Our Outdoor Ed field trip is next week. All permission slips and payments should have been submitted by now. Next Tuesday morning, we will head out to the Lorado Taft field campus in Oregon, IL. While we are there, we will be spending a significant amount of time outside. It is imperative that students are dressed appropriately for the weather. This means, boots, winter coats, hats and gloves. Please check the packing list posted on the 5th Grade wiki for a list of items to bring (and not to bring).

Ethnic Fest

This year's Fifth Grade Ethnic Fest will be held on Friday, December 19. Students are asked to contribute a food item representing their cultural background or family tradition. Food items must be nut safe (nut-free and prepared in a sanitary nut-free environment). An ingredient list must be submitted by December 1.

Number Hawks Volunteer Opportunity

Holmes is looking for volunteers to tutor students, primarily in Grades K-2, to become proficient mathematicians. Through strategically planned lessons and continuous data collection, you will help Holmes students increase their basic number sense. Can you commit to as little as 20 minutes one day per week or as much as 30 minutes every day? Please fill out the Google form (link below) so that you can be contacted about a tutoring training session and mandatory background check required by the district.

"Number Hawks" are set to take flight this November.

https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh_sg/viewform

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

THE SPECIALS SHOWCASE IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th! Part of your child's grade in music (performance) is this showcase. Please make sure to fill this out especially if your child is not going to attend.
[PERMISSION SLIP LINK](#)

Art - www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com Students have begun looking at the infinite, abstract patterns found in Islamic artwork. We are creating our own patterns by carving drawing erasers and using them as stamps as we begin a printmaking unit. For specials night on December 4th, students are choosing one drawing project that they are the most proud of to go on display. Their clay relief sculptures will also be on display.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Our **specials showcase on December 4th!** Please save the date and fill out the [permission slip online](#)

Chorus and Gold Belt - Congratulations on a wonderful first performance! If was a beautifully touching concert and I look forward to many more. Stay tuned for details on a possible January concert! <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on the chorus or gold belt tab.

Spanish - The students are so excited to present their stories this week in the specials showcase on December 4th. We look forward to seeing you there!**Please save the date and fill out the [permission slip online](#)**
<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Don't forget! Reading Olympians: The competition is this **Wednesday, December 3**. All fifth grade students will be in attendance, to view the competition with their classes, and cheer on their classmates. Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE. The kids go through a maze of obstacles as they explore the circulatory and respiratory systems (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

Last week and during the upcoming short week before Thanksgiving, our focus is interpreting themes in fiction. Students learned that "theme" is synonymous with "life-lesson" or "big idea" or "moral." Students also learned that they can interpret themes themselves, especially if they pay attention in their books when the main character feels strong emotions and/or makes a critical choice. This week, students will make a "theme poster" to share a theme in a book that they read independently or with their partner. We will compare themes in a variety of books that students are reading independently, noticing that books can have the same or very similar themes. We will also continue shared reading of *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis.

Writing

As part of our Personal Narrative unit, students will use a variety of strategies to revise and edit their best "flashdraft" of an important moment in their life.

Math

In Math, we will continue to learn about fractions. Our focus this week will be on equivalent fractions. We will discuss different methods for finding equivalent fractions with common denominators (using an area model and also using the least common multiple). An understanding of common denominators and equivalent fractions is necessary as we begin adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. There will be a quiz on Friday covering equivalent fractions and adding unlike fractions.

Science

In science this week, we will begin to discuss the science fair project and have students look through various sites to get a feel for what type of project interests them. The Science Fair will be Thursday, April 16, so we have plenty of time, but we will have deadlines throughout the process to keep students on schedule. We will send home information on the project in the coming weeks.

Social Studies

This week we will begin a unit on European Explorers. We will begin by learning about Marco Polo and his adventures on the Silk Road. We will follow this by discussing Christopher Columbus. This will be accompanied by a read-aloud of the book Encounter. Encounter tells the story of Christopher Columbus “discovering America” from the perspective of the Taino people he encountered. We will then discuss whether we think Columbus was a hero or a villain.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We will review prefixes a-/ab-/abs- and super-/sur- by playing various games.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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